P880132-0589

Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 26, 1980

ACTION is assigned to PA/PC

The Honorable Edmund S. Muskie
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

During the meeting of the Committee last Wednesday, September 24, 1980, several Members again raised their grave concern over the fate of Kim Dae Jung.

I conveyed this concern to you in my letter of August 27, 1980. However, I want to take this opportunity to let you know that very strong sentiment exists here for finding a way to influence a decision by the South Korean Government to commute Kim Dae Jung's death sentence. Unless that sentence is commuted, a number of Members are certain to propose legislation which would terminate all U.S. military sales to the Government of Korea. That would not be in the best interests of the United States, Korea, or the cause of peace in Northeast Asia. Nevertheless such a step would be understandable under the circumstances.

I, therefore, urge you to take all appropriate diplomatic action to assure that Kim's sentence is commuted.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

CJZ:pgy

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
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